United Nations E/CN.6/2005/L.6/Rev.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: Limited
4 March 2005

Original: English

Commission on the Status of Women
Forty-ninth session
28 February-11 March 2005
Agenda item 3
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"

Philippines:* revised draft resolution

Integrating a gender perspective in post-disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, particularly in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 59/279 of 19 January 2005, 59/232 of 22 December 2004, 59/231 of 22 December 2004 and 59/212 of 20 December 2004, as well as the agreed conclusions of the Commission in 2002 on environmental management and the mitigation of natural disasters,

Recalling also the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction held in Kobe, Japan, from 18 to 22 January 2005, which recognized that a gender perspective should be integrated into all disaster risk management policies, plans and decision-making processes, including those related to risk assessment, early warning, information management and education and training,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the commitment to design, implement and monitor, with the full participation of women, effective, efficient and mutually reinforcing gender-sensitive policies and programmes at all levels that will foster the empowerment and advancement of women,

---

* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions at the Economic and Social Council.

[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

05-26567 (E) 100305

Recalling the commitments regarding women and girls affected by natural disasters, displacement and other such emergencies in the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2]

Recalling also its resolution 48/4 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/4 of 7 July 2004 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,

Conscious of the number and scale of natural disasters and their increasing impact, including the tsunami disaster that struck the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asian regions on 26 December 2004, resulting in hundreds of thousands of deaths and millions of displaced and homeless persons,

Expressing concern that women and children account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by natural disasters and their aftermath, including the recent tsunami disaster, and that those living in poverty are most affected,

Noting that women have multiple and varied roles, including caring for survivors and maintaining family and community in disaster situations,

Concerned that women and girls are more vulnerable to violence, including sexual abuse and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence in many emergency situations, including in the aftermath of natural disasters,

Also concerned that women and girls in many disaster situations, including in the aftermath of the tsunami disaster, continue to be victims of violence, including sexual abuse and sexual and other gender-based violence,

Welcoming the response, support and assistance of the international community in the relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, which reflect the spirit of international solidarity and cooperation in addressing the recent tsunami disaster and other disasters,

Concerned that existing post-disaster relief, recovery rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts, including in the recent tsunami disaster, have not sufficiently addressed the gender dimensions of the situation,

1. *Urges* Governments, in planning for disaster preparedness and responding to natural disasters, to integrate a gender perspective as well as to ensure that women take an active and equal role in all phases of disaster management;

2. *Calls* on United Nations entities and international and local humanitarian relief organizations to strengthen the gender dimensions of their responses to disaster situations;

3. *Strongly calls* on Governments and other relevant bodies, in their responses to disaster situations, to meet the needs of affected populations such as food, clean water, shelter and physical security, as well as to provide services such as health care, including reproductive health, psychological health and psychosocial support and education, taking into account the particular needs of women and girls;

4. *Emphasizes* the importance of developing and implementing sustainable anti-poverty programmes led by the Governments of affected countries, that

[2] General Assembly resolution S-23/3, annex.

improve access to and control over productive resources for women and girls affected by disasters;

5. *Underlines* the need to address the gender equality dimensions of livelihood, security, land tenure, land rights, property and housing since they pose major challenges to women, in particular widows, women heads of households, women with disabilities and women who have lost family members in natural disasters;

6. *Also underlines* the need to give special attention to the vulnerabilities and capacities of marginalized groups of women and girls;

7. *Stresses* the need to utilize the expertise, knowledge and networks of women to promote gender equality and social justice in the context of disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction and to facilitate women's access to media and information and communication technologies;

8. *Strongly urges* Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant bodies to take necessary measures, including the development and implementation of gender-sensitive codes of conduct, to protect women and girls from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and all other forms of violence in the context of natural disasters and to provide appropriate care for women and girls who have been exposed to sexual abuse and other forms of violence;

9. *Urges* Governments, United Nations entities and other relevant bodies involved in post-disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction to provide training on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women and girls and to promote gender balance and gender sensitivity among their representatives and staff;

10. *Calls* on Governments to involve women in all levels of decision-making in disaster situations, including in community-level welfare centres for displaced persons;

11. *Also calls* on Governments to promote and protect the full enjoyment of human rights by women, including in the context of natural disaster relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

12. *Encourages* Governments and relevant bodies of the United Nations system, and invites donor countries, regional and international financial institutions and civil society involved in relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts to implement gender-sensitive, community-based approaches, so that women can take an active and equal role in all stages and at all levels, and to monitor these through various measures, including the collection and use of sex-disaggregated statistical data to accurately track progress and women's participation;

13. *Urges* Governments, United Nations entities and relevant stakeholders to support gender-sensitive capacity-building at all levels of disaster management;

14. *Requests* Governments of affected countries, the United Nations system, regional organizations and donor countries to recognize the vulnerabilities and capacities of women and girls and to address these through a gender-responsive allocation of resources in their relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to include in his reports to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session, the gender dimensions of relief, recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction efforts coordinated by the United Nations in situations of natural disasters, including the recent tsunami disaster.